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POLIOMYELITIS IN THE UNITED STATES, 1910 AND 1911.

Cases of poliomyelitis are required by State law or regulation to be reported to the health authorities in the following States and Territories: California, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin.

Of the above States and Territories in which the disease is notifiable, no case was reported to the Surgeon General of the Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service during the year 1911 from Hawaii, Maine, New Jersey, Ohio, South Carolina, or Tennessee. It is known, however, that a considerable number of cases occurred in Cincinnati, Ohio.

The table on page 549 shows the prevalence of the disease during the calendar years 1910 and 1911, as given by State reports. This table has been compiled from special monthly reports made to the Surgeon General by the health departments of California, District of Columbia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New York, North Dakota, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin, and from the printed bulletins of these and other States.

The data is very incomplete. Only the cases were available in some instances and deaths only in others. Throughout the table it is evident that the deaths have been reported much more completely than the cases. The disease was undoubtedly also present in some States not appearing in the list. However, in spite of the unavoidable incompleteness of the information, the table shows the recorded geographic distribution and prevalence of the disease in the United States during the calendar years 1910 and 1911.

A similar table compiled from the same sources of information for the year 1910 appeared in the Public Health Reports for March 3, 1911, on page 242.

The States that made reports for each of the 12 months of the year 1911 and for which, therefore, the data should include all cases reported to the health department are as follows: District of Columbia, Indiana, Iowa, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Virginia, Wisconsin, Oregon, Idaho, Washington.

The table, which, in addition to giving the cases and deaths reported for 1911, shows the totals for 1910 and also the deaths compiled by the Bureau of the Census from the registration States and cities for the same year, indicates that the disease has been present

during the last two years in all sections of the country. Asst. Surg. Hasseltine, while cruising in Alaskan waters on the revenue cutter *Rush* during the summer of 1910 reported that poliomyelitis had been recognized in Alaska at Douglas, Chicagoff, and Yakutat.¹ It is probable that no State or Territory in the continental United States has been entirely free from the disease and that the absence of reported cases simply indicates a lack of official means for being informed of their occurrence or a failure on the part of physicians to recognize or report sporadic cases and limited mild outbreaks.

From the reports of cases and deaths it appears that during 1910 the greatest prevalence of the disease was in Iowa, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New York, and Pennsylvania, and that a considerable, although lesser, number of cases occurred in Connecticut, District of Columbia, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, New Jersey, Ohio, Rhode Island, Washington, and Wisconsin. The seeming greater prevalence in these States may, however, be due, to some extent at least, to an active interest on the part of the health authorities and the more general recognition of cases on the part of practicing physicians. In those States in which the disease is not notifiable its prevalence must remain largely unknown.

During 1911 the greatest number of cases appear to have occurred in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New York, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin. There seems, however, to have been a marked decrease in the prevalence of the disease from that of 1910.

For the purpose of arriving at the case-fatality rate only those States can be considered in which especial effort was made to trace all cases of the disease. In Massachusetts of 601 cases occurring during 1910, studied by Lovett and Sheppard, 54 ended fatally. This gives a case-fatality rate of 9 for each 100 cases. In Vermont among 72 cases studied by Caverly there were 10 deaths, giving a case-fatality rate of 13.9 per 100 cases. Of 506 cases in 1910 in the District of Columbia studied by a special committee of the medical association there were apparently only 16 deaths, giving a case-fatality rate of 3.1 per hundred cases.

¹ Public Health Reports May 5, 1911, p. 633.

Poliomyelitis in the United States—Cases and deaths reported during the years 1910 and 1911.

States.	1911																								Total for 1910.		Deaths in 1910, com- piled by the Bureau of the Census from the registration and cities.		
	Jan.		Feb.		Mar.		Apr.		May.		June.		July.		Aug.		Sept.		Oct.		Nov.		Dec.		Total for 1911.			Cases.	Deaths.
	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.			
Alabama.....																											8	3	
Alaska.....	2	1	3								1		2	1	2	1	2	1	4	1	12	4	25	11	33	9	29	4	
California.....																										5	1	4	
Colorado.....	3	1			1		1		1		1		3		8		16		2		1		44		168	32	40	3	
Connecticut.....																										2	1	3	
Delaware.....																										1506	116	21	
District of Columbia.....																										7	2		
Florida.....									1	1			2						2	1			1		21				
Hawaii (Honolulu).....																										42	1		
Idaho.....								2		2		1					5				2		13	1	96	6			
Illinois.....	5		8		2	7	3	6	4	8	1	14			46	15	39	5					141	34	137	42	24		
Indiana.....		7					1	3		7	2	11	2	24	7	21	6	33	16	5	3	2	97	62	133	23	49		
Iowa.....	10	7	3	4	1	5	3	1	2	2	1	3	1	9	4	10	2	14	5	10	2	1	2	68	34	638	161		
Kansas.....																										189	47	4	
Kentucky.....																										(*)	(*)	1	
Louisiana.....																										(*)	(*)	2	
Maine.....	2	2							1	1																27	31		
Maryland.....									1																	35	28	35	
Massachusetts.....	11		2	2	11	1	5	1	8	3	12		26	2	82	4	47	5	31	5	19	3	6	260	23	845	122		
Michigan.....	2	4	2	6	1	6					2	7			7		7		4					23	14	43	14		
Minnesota.....	1	3	4		2	5	2	4	8	2	10	7	20	8	14	3	1	7	3	6	5	4	2	69	55	227	69	1	
Mississippi.....																										(*)	(*)	18	
Missouri.....																												4	
Montana.....																										(*)	6	17	
Nebraska.....																										(*)	17	4	
Nevada.....																										(*)	5	19	
New Hampshire.....																										75	2	50	
New Jersey.....																													
New York.....	7	7	5	2	6	6	5	3	1	1	8	1	16	3	34	10	28	8	16	1	10	3	2	3	138	48	217	60	
New York City.....											3		21		27		58		89		67		73		347				
North Carolina.....																										(*)	(*)	3	

* Present.

¹ Report of a committee of the Medical Association of the District of Columbia, Washington Medical Annals, May, 1911.

² A report by Lovett and Sheppard (Boston Med. and Surg. Journ., May, 1911) states that there occurred in Massachusetts during 1910, at least 845 cases of poliomyelitis, and that of 601 cases 54 ended fatally.

Poliomyelitis in the United States—Cases and deaths reported during the years 1910 and 1911—Continued.

States.	1911												Total for 1910.		Deaths in 1910 (compiled by the Bureau of the Census from the registration States and cities.																	
	Jan.		Feb.		Mar.		Apr.		May.		June.		July.			Aug.		Sept.		Oct.		Nov.		Dec.		Total for 1911.		Cases.	Deaths.			
	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.		Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.					
North Dakota.....																		5	1							11	1	100	5	76		
Ohio.....																										(*)		52	12	19		
Oklahoma.....																										8	13	66	24	269		
Oregon.....	2	1	1	6	2																					177	44	1,097	188	44		
Pennsylvania.....	11	15	17	10	4	1	9	8	15	6	20	10	30	9	22										10	4	6	14	1	1		
Rhode Island.....	1		1		3	1	1	1	2	2	4	1													13	5			231	44	1	
South Carolina.....																										26	8		85	10	1	
South Dakota.....	2		2	1	5	3	1																						86	17	1	
Tennessee.....																															1	7
Utah.....																										1					1	1
Vermont.....			1		2		3	4																		1			2	1	7	
Virginia.....	2	3	5	10																						27	8	172	1	10	9	
Washington.....	2	3	5	1	16	1	38	41	72	41	42	41	41	2	41										332	16	30	20	337	2	15	
Wisconsin.....	2	3	4	5	2	1	12	2	2	2	1	1	4	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	38	13	254	49	216	81	
Wisconsin.....	1	2		1	2	2	3	4	2	5	1	5	2	11	5	11	4	11	2	1	3	56	26			56	26	22	27	27	43	
Total.....	64	39	52	40	58	34	73	26	66	30	114	26	231	33	333	59	334	53	282	39	179	27	145	26	1,931	440	5,861	950		1,459		

* Present.

1 Caverly, C. S., Bull. Vt. State Board of Health, Dec. 1, 1911, and Mar. 1, 1912